

## **VII. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **A. ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES**

The architectural survey identified two complexes within the proposed wetland recreation site, a tenant house on the Marshall Tract and the Ward House on the Eskridge Tract. The buildings on the Marshall Tract do not appear eligible for the National Register, as they lack demonstrable qualities of architectural significance or documented association with events or persons of importance in the history of Delaware's Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp Zone.

The Ward Farmhouse (CRS #S-3212) is an example of a single-pile hall-parlor plan house, which was used in Delaware as early as the mid-seventeenth century. The structure possesses the distinctive characteristics of that housing type, and it exhibits integrity of location, design, workmanship and materials, therefore it appears eligible for the National Register. It is recommended that DeIDOT consult with the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to determine the property's significance and an appropriate treatment strategy, prior to development of the Eskridge property.

### **B. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Based on landform and drainage characteristics, the project area was evaluated as having low potential for prehistoric occupation. The only evidence of prehistoric activity found during the field survey is a projectile point base, and it appears to be an isolated find, probably representing an object lost during hunting. The absence of prehistoric sites conforms with the initial assessment of the project area's archaeological sensitivity, based on background information and the settlement pattern models presented in the state plan (Custer 1986). Located in a relatively featureless interfluvial setting in the Mid-Peninsular Drainage Divide physiographic zone, the study area lacked highly preferred occupational settings, such as terraces adjacent to principal drainages or elevated areas with well-drained soils. The extensive wetland areas in the Mid-Peninsular Drainage Divide physiographic zone would have provided a variety of specialized resources for prehistoric populations, and the project area and surrounding vicinity may have been used for hunting and specialized resource procurement.

Historic and modern material was widely scattered throughout the survey area but in low density. The most concentrated area of historic material, located along Road 243, is probably not associated with occupation of the survey area. The William H. Ward House, which dates to circa 1880, appears to represent the initial occupation of the survey area. Refuse deposits associated with this structure are widely scattered and generally confined to plowzone and disturbed surface contexts, and they contained a highly fragmented assemblage with a mixture of nineteenth- and twentieth-century material. The Ward Farmhouse Site has been assigned site number 7S-F-138, however the associated archaeological deposits do not represent a significant cultural resource. In summary, there is no evidence that development of the property will have an adverse effect on any significant archaeological resources.